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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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BACKGROUND--BRITISH FORCES IN MIDDLE EAST

I. Ground forces (Mar '56 info):

A.	Cyprus	20,000(1)	1 airborne brigade; 9 infantry battalions; 1 artillery regiment; 1 armored car regiment; 1 armored squadron
B.	Libya	7,000	1 armored brigade (2)
C.	Suez	10,000	1 infantry brigade (3)
D.	Jordan	1,500	1 armored regiment; 1 infantry company; 1 anti-aircraft artillery battery
E.	Aden	950	1 infantry battalion
	Total	39,450	

II. Air forces (Dec '55 info): (4)

A.	Cyprus	2 Day Fighter Sqdn	Venom
B.	Suez	1 Fighter Reconnaissance sqdn.	Meteor
		1 Photo Reconnaissance sqdn.	Meteor
C.	Jordan	1 Day Fighter sqdn.	Venom
D.	Iraq	1 Day Fighter sqdn.	Venom
E.	Aden	1 Day Fighter sqdn.	Venom

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III. Navy (Mar '56 info):

A. Mediterranean Fleet, based on Malta, ordinarily consists of following operational vessels:

1 carrier
1 light cruiser
5 destroyers
4 corvettes
4 submarines
6 coastal minesweepers

B. Fleet currently being augmented by home fleet units on spring cruise (through April).

C. In addition, two frigates from East Indies Station (Ceylon) patrol the Persian Gulf.

IV. Notes

(1) Includes 1500 Royal Marines in 2 of the 9 infantry battalions.

(2) Being built up to division strength (to be known as 10th Armored Division).-2-

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(3) Remainder of initial 46,000: evacuation to be completed by June '56.

(4) Aircraft in these squadrons (total 118) are obsolete fighter-bombers, with a primarily police mission.

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